

In The Claims:

Cancel claims 22-24 and 27, and amend claims 16-17, 19 and 26, as follows:

Claims 1-15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (currently amended)

5 16. An offshore fluid transfer system which includes a fluid-passing seafloor structure such as one connected to a seafloor well or pipeline, a compliantly anchored floating structure such as a vessel, that floats at the sea surface, at least one mooring line that is anchored to the seafloor and that holds said floating structure in the vicinity of said seafloor structure and at an initial position in a calm environment, and a fluid-carrying conduit structure that extends up from said seafloor structure to said floating structure, wherein:

10 said conduit structure includes a single rigid seafloor riser support that has a lower portion lying at the seafloor and fixed in position and orientation to the sea floor, said riser support also has an upper portion lying at a height of at least 10 meters above the sea floor and a plurality of meters at least 20% of the height of the sea above the seafloor but less than the height of the sea so the upper portion of the support lies in the sea to reduce the required length of flexible conduit;

15 said conduit structure also includes a supported pipe that extends along a plurality of meters of the height of said riser support and that is fixed to said riser support at a plurality of locations that are vertically spaced apart by a plurality of meters, and said conduit structure includes a flexible conduit portion that extends from said seafloor riser support to said floating structure.

Claim 17 (currently amended)

17. The system described in claim 16 including wherein:

~~a curved rigid pipe section (80) that has first and second ends and that is~~

5 ~~curved by more than 45° between said ends, said curved rigid pipe section fixed to said riser support at a top of said riser support, said first end of said curved rigid pipe section being connected to an upper end of said supported pipe, and said second end of said curved rigid pipe section being connected to an end of said flexible conduit portion.~~

said upper portion of said riser support lies at a height above the seafloor of at least 30% of the height of the sea.

Claim 18 (original)

18. The system described in claim 16 wherein:
said supported pipe is straight and rigid.

Claim 19 (currently amended)

5 19. The system described in claim 16 wherein:
said supported pipe extends ~~in a fixed orientation relative to the sea floor~~
straight along a height of a plurality of meters at a forward upward incline up to the top portion of said riser support, and said flexible conduit portion extends at a forward-downward incline from the top portion of said riser support.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (original)

5 21. The system described in claim 16 wherein:
said rigid frame has a longitudinal (M) length and a lateral (L) width, and said transfer system includes a plurality of supported rigid pipe lengths, including said supported pipe, which are laterally (L) spaced apart and that each extends along a plurality of meter of height of said riser support.

Claims 22-24 (canceled).

Claim 25 (original)

25. An offshore fluid transfer system which includes a fluid-passing seafloor structure such as one connected to a seafloor well or pipeline, a compliantly anchored floating structure such as a vessel, at least one mooring line that is anchored to the seafloor and that holds said floating structure in the vicinity of said seafloor structure and at an initial position in a calm environment, and a fluid-carrying conduit structure that extends up from said seafloor structure to said floating structure, wherein:

said conduit structure includes a single rigid seafloor riser support that has a lower portion lying at the seafloor and an upper portion lying at a height of a plurality of meters above the seafloor;

said conduit structure also includes a supported pipe that extends along a plurality of meters of the height of said riser support and that is fixed to said riser support at a plurality of locations that are vertically spaced apart by a plurality of meters, and said conduit structure includes a flexible conduit portion that extends from said seafloor riser support to said floating structure;

said seafloor riser support upper portion forms a convexly rounded hose-supporting top surface that has a radius of curvature of a plurality of meters, and said conduit flexible portion includes a part that extends around said top surface and that can lift off said top surface and lay back down on said top surface.

Claim 26 (currently amended)

26. An offshore fluid transfer system which includes a fluid-passing seafloor structure such as one connected to a seafloor well or pipeline, a compliantly anchored floating structure such as a vessel, at least one mooring line that is anchored to the seafloor and that holds said floating structure in the vicinity of said seafloor structure and at an initial position in a calm environment, and a fluid-carrying conduit structure that extends up from said

seafloor structure to said floating structure, wherein:

10 said conduit structure includes a single rigid seafloor riser support that has a lower portion lying at and fixed in position and orientation to the seafloor and an upper portion fixed in position and orientation to said sea floor and lying at a height of ~~a plurality of~~ at least ten meters above the seafloor but less than the height of the sea so the upper portion of the support lies in the sea;

15 said conduit structure also includes a supported rigid pipe that extends along a plurality of meters of the height of said riser support and that is fixed to said riser support at a plurality of locations that are vertically spaced apart by a plurality of meters, and said conduit structure includes a flexible conduit portion that extends from said seafloor riser support to said floating structure;

20 said riser support has sufficient average horizontal width and length dimensions compared to its height, that said riser supports the conduit structure without an underwater buoy to pull up the top of the riser support;

 said supported pipe extends at a forward upward incline to the top portion of said riser support, and said flexible conduit portion extends at a forward-downward incline from the top portion of said riser support;

25 said riser upper portion lies at a height of at least 30% of the height of the sea at the riser support.

Claim 27 (canceled).